

ON VENEZUELAN *LEPROLOCHUS*
(ARANEAE, ZODARIIDAE)

RUDY JOCQUÉ¹ AND NORMAN I. PLATNICK²

¹Musée Royal de l'Afrique Central, B-1980 Tervuren, Belgium, and

²Department of Entomology, American Museum of Natural History,
Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, New York 10024

Abstract.—A new species of the Neotropical spider genus *Leprolochus*, *L. stratus*, is described from inland Venezuela; records and illustrations are provided for related species.

Members of the spider genus *Leprolochus* Simon are easily recognized by the transverse row of spines occupying the anterior margin of the carapace. Similar spines occur in the genus *Cyrioctea* Simon, but there they are situated between the two eye rows, rather than in front of the anterior row. Despite their similar appearance, the two genera do not appear to be sister groups (Jocqué, 1987; Platnick, 1986; Platnick and Griffin, 1988). *Cyrioctea* is an austral genus, known from Queensland, Chile, Argentina, and Namibia; *Leprolochus* is Neotropical, extending from Panama and Trinidad to central Argentina (Jocqué, 1988). In a recent revision, only three species of *Leprolochus* were reported (Jocqué, 1988). Considering how little spider collecting has been done in much of South America, it is not surprising that a recent collection of material from inland areas of Venezuela included two species of *Leprolochus*, one of which is newly described below.

All measurements are in mm; abbreviations used for eye and spination patterns are standard for the Araneae. We are grateful to Drs. J. and S. Peck for providing these, and many other fascinating, specimens to the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH); to Dr. A. Timotheo da Costa of the Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro, for loaning types; and to Dr. M. U. Shadab (AMNH) for supplying illustrations.

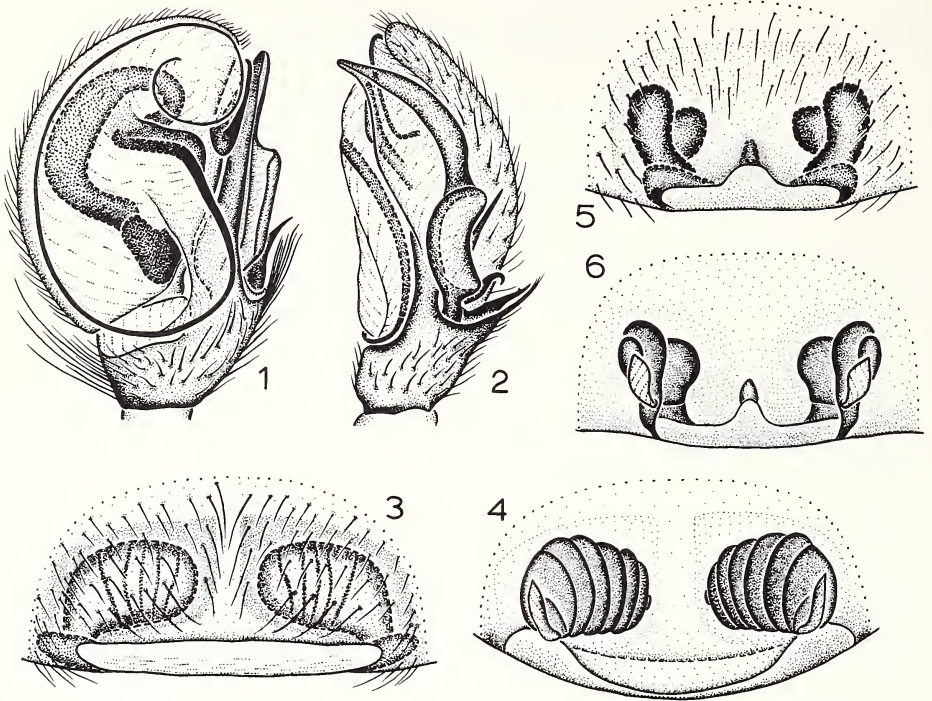
***Leprolochus stratus*, new species**

Figs. 1-4

Types. Female holotype taken in a flight intercept trap in an evergreen forest 20 km N of Upata, Bolívar, Venezuela (21 June-12 July 1987; S. and J. Peck), and two male paratypes taken in a flight intercept trap in a forested woodland ravine at Puente Cocuizas, 70 km W of Ciudad Bolívar, Bolívar, Venezuela (19 June-August 1987; S. and J. Peck), deposited in AMNH.

Etymology. The specific name is from the Latin *stratus*, meaning "with a saddle" and referring to the saddle-like depression at the base of the lateral apophysis of the male palpal tibia.

Diagnosis. This species seems closely related to *L. spinifrons* Simon. Males can be distinguished by the long lateral tibial apophysis bearing a saddle-like dorsal depression near its base (Fig. 2), females by the transversely oriented, corkscrew-shaped copulatory ducts (Fig. 4). Females of the other known species have longitudinally



Figs. 1-6. 1-4. *Leprolochus stratus*, n. sp. 5, 6. *L. parahybae* Mello-Leitão. 1. Left male palp, ventral view. 2. Left male palp, retrolateral view. 3, 5. Epigynum, ventral view. 4, 6. Epigynum, dorsal view.

oriented, less highly coiled copulatory ducts (for *L. spinifrons* and *L. birabeni* Mello-Leitão, see Jocqué, 1988, figs. 8, 18; for *L. parahybae* Mello-Leitão, see Figs. 5, 6).

FEMALE: Total length 5.42. Carapace 2.46 long, 1.83 wide, relatively broad in front, where narrowed to only 0.7 times maximum width, bearing row of 12 spines in front of eyes. Carapace and chelicerae medium brown; carapace darker in thoracic area, with pale brown median triangle in front of posterior margin. Endites and labium pale brown; sternum pale brown with darkened anterior margin. Femora medium brown suffused with dark brown; remainder of legs pale brown, tibiae with dark pro- and retrolateral blotches on both extremities of segment. Abdomen with pale dorsal pattern on dark sepia background, similar to that of *L. spinifrons* (Jocqué, 1988, fig. 4); sides dark sepia with four broad, oblique, pale streaks on posterior half; venter pale, with row of three small dark spots between epigynum and tracheal spiracle, rims of which are slightly sclerotized and pale brown; spinnerets pale brown. Eye sizes and interdistances: AME 0.12, ALE 0.10, PME 0.10, PLE 0.12; AME-AME 0.07, AME-ALE 0.23, PME-PME 0.19, PME-PLE 0.32, ALE-PLE 0.05; MOQ anterior width 0.76 times posterior width, 0.65 times length. Leg spination: femora: I, III d1-1-1-2, p11; II d1-1-1-2; IV d1-1-1-2, r11; patellae: I, II, IV d1-1, p11-1, r11; III d1-1, p11-1, r11-1; tibiae: I d1-1, p11-1-1, r12; II d1-1-1, p11-1-1, v2, r11-1; III

d1-1, p11-1-1, v2, r11-1; IV d1-1-1, p11-1-1, v1-1, r11-1; metatarsi: II d1; III d1, v1; IV 7 distal p. Measurements:

	I	II	III	IV	Palp
Femur	1.42	1.46	1.54	1.67	0.66
Patella	0.58	0.62	0.63	0.67	0.42
Tibia	1.00	1.08	1.17	1.54	0.33
Metatarsus	1.50	1.50	1.96	2.42	—
Tarsus	<u>1.26</u>	<u>1.12</u>	<u>1.08</u>	<u>1.54</u>	<u>0.58</u>
Total	5.76	5.78	6.38	7.84	1.99

Epigynum (Figs. 3, 4) ventrally with wide, featureless transverse slit near posterior margin; intromittent ducts coiled, with six transversely oriented loops, distal extremities of ducts facing each other; spermathecae probably hidden within coils.

MALE (values for second paratype in parentheses): Total length 2.50 (2.71). Carapace 1.16 (1.25) long, 0.91 (0.87) wide, narrowed in front to 0.65 times maximum width, with row of nine spines in front of eyes. Coloration as in female except abdomen with pale brown dorsal scutum obscuring pattern. Leg spination: femora: I d1-2, p11; II d1-1-2; III d1-1-2, p11; IV d1-1-1-2; patellae: I, III, IV d1-1, p11-1, r11; II d1-1-1, p11-1, r11; tibiae: I d1-1, p11-1-1; II d1-1-11, p11-1, v2; III d1-1, p11-1-1, r11; IV d1-1-1, p11-1-1, v1, r11; metatarsi: II, IV 4 distal p, III 5 distal p. Measurements:

	I	II	III	IV	Palp
Femur	0.79	0.81	0.83	0.87	0.40
Patella	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.36	0.20
Tibia	0.63	0.59	0.61	0.79	0.16
Metatarsus	0.71	0.77	0.87	1.21	—
Tarsus	<u>0.61</u>	<u>0.61</u>	<u>0.65</u>	<u>0.85</u>	<u>0.50</u>
Total	3.08	3.12	3.30	4.08	1.26

Palpal tibia with four apophyses: one long terminal apophysis tapering to sharp point, reaching distal extremity of cymbium, excavated along its inferior margin, provided with saddle-like depression at dorsal base; two dorsal apophyses, mesal and dorsal, at base of terminal apophysis; fourth apophysis short, mesodorsal, ending in sinuous tip pointing backward (Fig. 2). Embolus originating on mesal side of bulb, long, whip-like; intertegular apophysis simple, straight, curved inward at tip; tegular apophysis membranous, poorly delimited (Fig. 1).

Other material examined. None.

Distribution. Known only from the type locality in inland Venezuela.

Leprolochus spinifrons Simon

New records: VENEZUELA: **Bolívar:** Río Sipao, 110 km E Caicara, 17 June–4 Aug. 1987, flight intercept trap, gallery forest (S. and J. Peck, AMNH), 8♂, 2♀. **Sucre:** Carúpano, 23 July 1987, elev. 80 m, thorn-scrub litter (S. and J. Peck, AMNH), 1♀; 37 km W Carúpano, 31 July 1987, elev. 50 m, thorn vine forest litter, humid ravine (S. and J. Peck, AMNH), 3♀.

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